

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAJ-01 SSM-03 IO-13 MCT-01 ACDA-07 DHA-02
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-----091152Z 108336 /17

P R 090704Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 492
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T AMMAN 0778

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JO, EG, XF
SUBJECTS: TALK WITH EGYPTIAN AMABASSADOR

REF: MOSCOW 1789

SUMMARY: IN RETURN CALL ON NEW EGYPTIAN AMABASSADOR IN
AMMAN EZZATT ABDELLTAIF HE MADE A NUMBER OF INTERESTING
POINTS TO AMBASSADOR. PARAMONT AMONG THESE WAS FACT THAT
EGYPTIANS ARE FLEXIBLE ON QUESTION OF UNIFIED ARAB DELEGA-
TION, WANT TO SEE PLO INVOLVED IN GENEVA FROM THE START
BUT ARE ALSO VERY FLEXIBLE ON TYPE OF FORMULA TO BE
EVOLVED TO GET THEM TO GENEVA. FAHMI HAS REFUSED INVITATION
TO VISIT JORDAN, AND SOVIET MIDDLE EAST AREA MOFA OFFICIAL
SYTENKO PLANS TO VISIT CARIO TOMORROW AND DAMASCUS
AND AMMAN SUBSEQUENTLY.

1. ABDELLTAIF WHO HAS SERVED IN BEIRUT FOR PREVIOUS
FOUR YEARS APPEARED FORTHCOMING AND WELL INFORMED. HE
WAS INCLUDED IN TALKS DURING KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO
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ASWAN A MONTH AGO. HE SPOKE WITH CONSIDERABLE CONFIDENCE
ABOUT EGYPTIAN POSITION AND OBJECTIVES.

2. AFTER DISCUSSION OF KING'S RECENT VISIT TO SYRIA
IN WHICH I DESCRIBED SLOW DOWN IN JORDANIAN-SYRIAN
RELATIONS AND SYRIAN-JORDANIAN INTEREST IN UNIFIED
DELEGATION AND AGREEMENT ON NEED FOR PLO TO ATTEND

GENEVA, TALK TURNED TO CONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE.

3. EGYPTIAN SAID THAT ALL ARABS AGREED ON BASIC NEED TO HAVE PALESTINIANS INVOLVED IN SETTLEMENT. NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES TO DO THIS WERE OPEN IF ISRAELIS OBJECTED TO SEPARATE PLO ATTENDANCE. ONE SUCH POSSIBILITY IS UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION ABOUT WHICH EGYPT IS FLEXIBLE. ANOTHER IS JORDAN-PLO DELEGATION. A THIRD POSSIBILITY IS REFORM OF PLO FROM WITHIN AT PNC MEETING IN CAIRO NOW SET FOR MARCH 12.

4. ON BASIC SUBSTANCE AT GENEVA, EGYPT WISHES RETURN OF TERRITORIES AND WILL WORK TO KEEP ARABS UNIFIED IN THIS OBJECTIVE. ALSO SUPPORTS PALESTINIAN STATE AND LINKS WITH JORDAN. WALDHEIM WAS EXPLORING VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES CONCERNING WORKING GROUPS AT GENEVA -- EGYPT SUPPORTS THESE BECAUSE IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE THE COUNTRIES MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED NEGOTIATE FOR AND ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR TERMS OF RETURN OF TERRITORIES. EGYPT RECOGNIZED THAT INSISTENCE ON SEPARATE WORKING GROUPS RAISED ARAB SUSPICIONS THAT EGYPT WAS PREPARING TO GO IT ALONE. ALL ARABS TOGETHER WOULD HAVE TO FACE SOME DIFFICULT QUESTIONS CONCERNING WHETHER GENEVA COULD EVOLVE INTERIM STEPS AND WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO AGREE ON IMPLEMENTING SUCH STEPS IN ADVANCE OF FINAL AGREEMENT WITHIN THE GENEVA FRAMEWORK. SUCH AN AGREEMENT IN ADVANCE WOULD HELP DEFUSE ARAB SUSPICIONS OF EGYPTIAN MOTIVES.

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5. JORDANIANS HAD INVITED FAHMI TO VISIT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. HOPE WAS TO GET HIM HERE BEFORE WALDHEIM VISIT. FAHMI SAID HE FORCED TO DECLINE INVITATION. ALL INFORMATION FAHMI MIGHT HAVE GIVEN JORDAN ON WALDHEIM VISIT TO CAIRO WOULD BE SENT TELGRAPHICALLY TO GOJ THROUGH EGYPTIAN EMBASSY AMMAN. UP TO NOW NONE OF THAT HAS BEEN RECEIVED. EGYPTIAN ALSO SAID THAT SYRIANS NOW AWARE OF OUTCOME WALDHEIM VISIT AND HAVE PROBABLY BRIEFED JORDANIANS. FAHMI JUST TOO BUSY NOW TO BREAK AWAY BEFORE MID-MARCH.

6. SOVIETS SENDING MIDDLE EAST EXPERT FROM MOFA SYTENKO TO AREA AND EXPECTED TO VISIT CAIRO FEBRUARY 9. ALSO PLANS TO VISIT DAMASCUS AND AMMAN. EGYPTIAN DOES NOT EXCLUDE TALKS WITH ARAFAT IN BEIRUT OR ELSEWHERE.

7. AS TO PLO ATTITUDES, ARAFAT TAKES POSITITON WITH WALDHEIM THAT HE WILL GO TO GENEVA AND INDEED WANTS TO

DO SO IF INVITED. EGYPTIAN SAYS OTHERS IN PLO PREFER
TO STAY AWAY AND HAVE WEST BANK HANDED TO THEM BY
"ARABS". HE BELIEVES THEY ARE IN MINORITY.

8. COMMENT: FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN HERE LESS THAN
A MONTH, NEW EGYPTIAN IS WELL INFORMED AND HAS OBVIOUSLY
BUILT ON NUMBER OF CONTACTS HERE WHO ARE STRONGLY
FAVORABLE TO IMPROVING JORDANIAN-EGYPTIAN TIES. MAJOR
AREA IN WHICH HE APPEARS TO LACK INFORMATION IS SYRIAN-
JORDANIAN TIES. WE HAVE HAD OTHER INDICATIONS SOVIETS
ATTEMPTING TO MAKE VISIT TO AMMAN BEFORE SECRETARY
VANCE'S ARRIVAL.
PICKERING

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